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Patent**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of : West et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No. : 10/017,685 Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed : December 14, 2001
For : Systems and Methods for Employing a Bite Block Insert for Positioning and Stabilizing External Instruments Deployed Within the Body

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the application prior to the first Office Action and calculation of fees as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification by replacement with the substitute Specification submitted herewith. The substitute Specification follows attached in clean form (Attachment A) as well as in marked-up form showing changes in the amended Specification relative to the previous version of the Specification (Attachment B).